

GOVERNOR'S DRINKING WATER STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Water Quality Coordinating Committee

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Nov 1, 2012

Problem description

- “The largest sources of nitrates in CA groundwater are those related to agricultural activities, particularly those which utilize the application of nitrogen fertilizers in one form or another. The dilemma which confronts the general public and governmental agencies is that public health concerns would be best served with little or no nitrogen in the drinking water source (of which the largest percentage is ground water) and that the farmer is best served by applying an adequate supply of nitrogen to his growing crops with some unavoidable leachable percolation carrying nitrogen as nitrate to the ground water body... Nearly all ground water basins in the central and coastal parts of California have this competing demand on ground water supplies.”
- 1988 Nitrate in Drinking Water Report to Legislature
- SBx2-1 (2008)

Stakeholder Conclusions

- ❑ **It is important to comprehensively and uniformly identify drinking water needs of disadvantaged communities and small systems between 2-14 connections in unincorporated areas to improve data collection and management.**
- ❑ **There is a need to incentivize and promote sustainable safe drinking water solutions within unincorporated disadvantaged communities.**

Stakeholder Conclusions

- ❑ **It is essential to ensure that all disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas have access to immediate, interim sources of safe drinking water.**
- ❑ **Increase access to existing funding sources for disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas for both long-term and interim safe drinking water solutions.**

Stakeholder Conclusions

- ❑ **Reduce costs for disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas to secure and sustain affordable drinking water solutions**
- ❑ **There is a need for continued engagement between a diverse stakeholder group and appropriate State agencies (CDPH, SWRCB, DWR, CalEPA) to develop programs to support sustainable solutions to the drinking water challenges in disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas of California**

Immediate Recommendations

- Expand definition of “drinking water emergency” under Prop. 84
 - ▣ Legislation Stalled
 - ▣ CDPH Proposed Revised Guidance
 - Includes interim solutions for severely disadvantaged communities that cannot meet safe drinking water standards & have applied for funding
 - \$50,000 per community, \$2 million total
 - ▣ SWRCB allocated \$ 2 million more from Cleanup & Abatement Account

Immediate Recommendations

- ❑ Expand eligibility criteria so that disadvantaged communities can receive Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) if other entities apply for them
- ❑ Establish fee-in-lieu of interest for SRF
- ❑ Fund pilot project for Salinas Valley modeled after successful pilot in Tulare Lake Basin

AB 685 (2012)

- (a) It is hereby declared to be the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.
- (b) All relevant state agencies, including the department, the state board, and the State Department of Public Health, shall consider this state policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, and grant criteria when those policies, regulations, and criteria are pertinent to the uses of water described in this section.